REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 2 and 11-14 have been amended. The amendments to claims 2 and 11 are supported by at least Figures 1 and 2 and their related description at page 8, lines 1-31 of the present application. Changes made to the claims by the current amendment are shown in the "Attached Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 12-14 have been amended to properly refer to the "covers" recited in claim 11. Claims 12-14 are now definite.

Claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuji, JP 4049703 in view of Toyoshima, JP 5007101. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The dividing fin 9 disclosed by Tsuji has a different configuration and function from that of the plate required by claim 2. Tsuji discloses in Figures 1 and 4 that the dividing fin 9 is positioned in the metal box in a direction parallel to a direction extending from an input lead electrode 6a to an output lead electrode 6b. As a result, dividing fin 9 cannot separate the input and output lead electrodes 6a, 6b, and there is no separation of "a region including one of the input/output lines from the other region including another input/output line and thereby cutting off the propagation path for the high frequency waves in the internal space of said metal box," as required by claim 2. Furthermore, there is no suggestion by Tsuji to reorient the fin 9 in a direction within the metal box to separate the input lead electrode 6a and the output lead electrode 6b.

Toyoshima also fails to disclose or suggest the plate required by claim 2. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Tsuji and Toyoshima fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 2, and the claims that depend from it.

Concerning claim 11, the dividing fin 9 disclosed by Tsuji does not disclose or suggest the covers required by claim 11. The dividing fin 9 does not surround the input/output lead electrode 6a, 6b and does not connect the input/output lead electrode 6a, 6b to the respective coupling lines 5a, 5b, because the dividing fin 9 lies on the connecting portions. As a result, the dividing fin 9 fails "to separate a region around one of the input/output lines from the other region around another input/out line and thereby suppress the propagation of high frequency waves," as required by claim 11.

The cover required by claim 11 separates the input/output lines from the internal space of the metal box where electromagnetic waves of a wave guide mode is generated. The cover of claim 11 can prevent the wave guide mode from being excited by a high-frequency wave transmitted in the input/output line. The cover of claim 11 is also configured to prevent the wave guide mode in the internal space of the metal box from being coupled to the input/output lines. As a result of the configuration of claim 11, the propagation of the wave guide mode (unwanted higher-order mode) is suppressed. Tsuji fails to provide these advantages and, as discussed above, fails to disclose the configuration of covers relative to input/out lines and input/output terminals that is required by claim 11.

Toyoshima fails to disclose the cover required by claim 11. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Tsuji and Toyoshima fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 11, and the claims that depend from it. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-10 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuji and Toyoshima and further in view of Buck et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,164,358. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As discussed above, claims 2 and 11, from which claims 8-10 and 15-17 depend, are allowable over the Tsuji and Toyoshima references. Buck fails to remedy the deficiencies of Tsuji and Toyoshima as they relate to claims 2 and 11. Therefore, claims 8-10 and 15-17 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: May 9, 2003

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM:JNR:PSTpmc

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 2 and 11-14 have been amended as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) A high-frequency circuit element comprising:

a substrate,

a high-frequency circuit <u>having input/output lines</u> disposed on said substrate,

a metal box electromagnetically shielding said high-frequency circuit by enclosing said substrate [there within] <u>therewithin</u>,

[an] input/output [terminal] <u>terminals</u> placed on said metal box and inputting/outputting a high-frequency signal to/from said high-frequency circuit, <u>said input/output terminals being connected to respective input/output lines of said high-frequency circuit</u>, and

a plate, for interrupting an unwanted high-order mode, substantially dividing an internal space in said metal box <u>so as to separate a region including one of the input/output lines from another region including another</u> of said <u>input/output line</u> and <u>thereby</u> cutting off the propagation path for the high-frequency waves in the internal space of said metal box.

11. (Four Times Amended) A high-frequency circuit element comprising:

a high-frequency circuit <u>having intput/output lines</u> ~~formed~~ disposed on said substrate,

a metal box with a lid electromagnetically shielding said high-frequency circuit by enclosing said substrate [there within] <u>therewithin</u>,

input/output terminals placed on said metal box and inputting/outputting a high-frequency signal to/from said high-frequency circuit, said input/output terminals being connected to respective input/output lines of said high-frequency circuit, and

covers for interrupting an unwanted higher order mode, surrounding the input/output lines and connecting portions between the input/output lines and the respective input/output terminals, respectively, within an internal space of said metal box so as to separate a region around one of the input/output lines from another region around another input/output line and thereby suppress the propagation of high-frequency waves.

12. (Amended) The high-frequency circuit element according to claim 11, wherein said [cover] covers for interrupting an unwanted higher-order mode [is] are made of a conductor.

13. (Amended) The high-frequency circuit element according to claim 12, wherein said [cover] covers for interrupting an unwanted higher-order mode [is] are electrically connected to said metal box.

14. (Amended) The high-frequency circuit element according to claim 11, wherein said [cover] covers for interrupting an unwanted higher-order mode [is] are made of a dielectric having a high dielectric constant.

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